

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method of modeling in a horizontally structured CAD/CAM environment having a defined coordinate system and employing a horizontal tree structure modeling, comprising:

establishing a plurality of sets of coordinate references, each of the sets of coordinate references is associatively independent from the coordinate system;

adding a base feature to the coordinate system, the base feature is associatively independent from the coordinate system and from each of the sets of coordinate references;

adding a plurality of form features, to each of the form features being added to a corresponding set of coordinate references from the sets of coordinate references such that (1) each of the form features is associatively dependent with the corresponding set of coordinate references from the sets of coordinate references and associatively independent from each other set of coordinate references from the sets of coordinate references, (2) each of the form features is associatively independent from the base feature, and (3) each of the form features is associatively independent from each other of the form features a model;

establishing an exclusive parent/child relationship between a set of reference planes and each of the form features; and

wherein acting on at least one of any one of the form features without will not affect any other one affecting other of the form features.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the acting on the ~~at least any~~ one of the form features comprises at least one of editing, suppressing, and deleting the ~~at least any~~ one of the form features.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the associative dependency is a parent/child relationship and the associative independency is a lack of a parent/child relationship~~the reference planes are children of the model is a parent that corresponds to a real-world part.~~

Claims 4 - 10. (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the sets of reference planes each comprise:

a first reference plane positioned and oriented relative to a reference;  
a second reference plane positioned and oriented relative to said reference;

and

a third reference plane positioned and oriented relative to said reference.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein said first reference plane, said second reference plane, and said third reference plane are orthogonal.

Claim 13 - 22. (Cancelled).

Claim 23. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4-84 further ~~including~~ includes ~~modifying a the link among a plurality of modeling elements.~~

Claims 24 – 27. (Cancelled).

Claim 28. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23 wherein said ~~modifying links the link among modeling elements~~ includes substituting a second ~~plurality of modeling elements for said plurality of modeling elements~~ the form features with other form features.

Claims 29 – 82. (Cancelled).

Claim 83. (New) A model generated by the method of claim 1.

Claim 84. (New) The method of Claim 1 further includes generating a link between at least two of the form features.